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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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10 June-5 July 2002
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Alejandro Torres Lépori (Argentina)

Addendum

Programme questions: Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 1
Political affairs

1. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 1, "Political affairs" (A/57/6 (Prog. 1)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 1 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan in respect of programme 1, as they were in general, in conformity with legislative mandates.

4. The view was also expressed that the medium-term plan formed the basis of preparing the biennial programme budgets and that the programme budgets should thus be based on the medium-term plan, and not the reverse.

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5. It was recognized that the Department of Political Affairs was the lead department for implementation of a number of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including, inter alia, the ones on counter-terrorism, which entailed additional tasks for the Department. It was underscored that other parts of the Secretariat, such as the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and other members of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, should also be fully involved, and their respective roles should be clearly defined. It was pointed out that coordination among these departments was of paramount importance to ensure coherence and to avoid duplication of activities.

6. Support was expressed for the efforts of the African people in achieving peace and development in the African continent. The view was expressed that the Organization should play a greater role in efforts for achieving peace and development in Africa.

7. The view was expressed that mandates for the holding of elections were the prerogative of the General Assembly and not of the Security Council. Concerning the indicators of achievement for subprogramme 2, "Electoral assistance", concern was expressed that transparency in the electoral processes of Member States requesting assistance for the conduct of elections was difficult to measure, and could be subjected to value judgement.

8. It was observed that while there were several expert panels and monitoring groups, established by the Security Council, not all of them were mentioned in the proposed revisions.

9. In discussing the proposed revisions under subprogramme 4, "Decolonization", it was stated that the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement shown in the existing medium-term plan were more complete and comprehensive than the proposed revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 1.4

Replace the paragraph with the following:

> **"In its capacity as the lead department on the subject of terrorism, the Department of Political Affairs will work with the Centre for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with other relevant Departments within the Secretariat in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)".**

Subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance

Expected accomplishments

Paragraph 1.12

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.11 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Indicators of achievement

Paragraph 1.13

[Delete the words "transparency and".]

Paragraph 1.13

[Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.12 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1."]

Paragraph 1.13

[Replace the paragraph with the following:

"Improvement [including accountability] in the provision of electoral assistance to Member States in response to their requests".]

Subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs

Strategy

Paragraph 1.15

In the third sentence, delete the words "to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its work, as well as"

Paragraph 1.15

Delete the words "on Afghanistan".

Paragraph 1.15

Replace the Security Council resolution number "1363 (2001)" with the number "1419 (2002)".

Subprogramme 4, Decolonization

Expected accomplishments

Paragraph 1.23

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.22 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 1.24

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.23 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, a contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Indicators of achievement

Paragraph 1.25

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.24 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Subprogramme 5, Question of Palestine

Indicators of achievement

Paragraph 1.29

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"An indicator of achievement would be an increase in the level of dialogue, engagement and support from the relevant international community actors for the subprogramme's objectives".

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

General Assembly resolutions

Add resolution 56/88 on measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council resolutions

Add resolution 1373 (2001) on measures to eliminate international terrorism

Subprogramme 4, Decolonization

General Assembly resolutions

[Add decision 56/410 on the question of Falkland Islands/Malvinas]